

Family Affairs

February 2011

Deadline for March 2011 *Family Affairs*: February 15

from mo. michelle

My brother is four years younger than me. This meant we missed out on each other's high school experiences. We both must have realized that loss, because when he began his first semester of college he asked if we might take a class together. I was finishing my last semester and thought, "Sure, why not. It might be fun." He picked the class: Physical Geography 101. I believed I would be learning where Angola was in relation to Nepal—physical geography—right?

You can imagine my surprise when, on the first day of class, the professor stood before us and began talking about cumulus vs. stratus cloud formations. What? Where was mention of continents and maps? I turned to my brother and asked *him*. He giggled (out loud, I might add), pointed to his book and said, "Michelle, this is P-H-Y-S-I-C-A-L Geography. Didn't you look at your book or syllabus? We are going to be learning about the various aspects of water, air, and soil specific to the Earth." We took that class together that semester. Though I had the title and a thought about what the course would be, that first lecture taught me that even armed with the basic information, it was possible to still be completely off base. The point of the class was to fellowship with my brother, not learn world maps. So I opened myself to this new understanding of Physical Geography, and was blessed in the doing.

Many years before the coming of Christ, there lived a man named Simeon. He was one of the most intelligent scholars of his time. As a young man, Simeon found himself praying for the day the Savior would come and deliver all Israel (and the world) from sin. One evening as he knelt in prayer, he heard the voice of God saying to him that he would not die until he had seen the Savior, Jesus Christ. Simeon spent his entire life looking for the fulfillment of this promise. It didn't come until he was about 150 years old.

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple to dedicate their firstborn son to God. In the Church, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation on February 2nd. Simeon was the priest in the Temple on that day, when a humble couple appeared before him to present their child to the Lord. He took one look at the baby in their arms and broke into a prayer of praise. He cried out in amazement, "*Lord you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised. My eyes have seen the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A light to enlighten the nations and the glory of your people Israel.*" Simeon's response is surprising. This infant Jesus could hardly have been what he expected, yet he knew how to recognize God's blessing when he saw it.

As we at Holy Family turn our attention to welcoming Fr. Clarke, our new rector, may our hearts and minds be open to welcoming both the expected and unexpected—recognizing all may not look as we expected. Through the prayerful work of the Search Committee, we know he has been called by God to serve in this time and place. Let us believe, in our bones as well as our souls, that the Lord will fill this house with splendor and the latter glory as is promised to those who are faithful. It was true for Simeon and I am confident it will be true for Clarke and this community of faith.

—Michelle L. Robertshaw, Assistant to the Rector

Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING on December 21, 2010, the Vestry:

- Learned that the Rev. Clarke French had given notice to his Wardens and Vestry in Watertown, New York, and had accepted the call to become Rector of Holy Family.
- Heard a report from Jane DeHart on the work of the Transition Committee and some of the activities proposed for welcoming the French family; allocated funds for the transition, to be distributed after the committee submits a budget.
- Discussed plans for decommissioning the Rector Search Committee.
- Received full financial reports for November; learned from the Treasurer that the deficit of revenues versus expenses was forecast to be eliminated by the end of December, leaving a small year-end surplus for 2010.
- Reviewed the Finance Commission's proposed budget for 2011 and adopted it on an interim basis; deferred final approval until the January Vestry meeting.
- Discussed a request for funding from the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, and agreed to invite the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, Vicar, to an upcoming Vestry meeting.
- Agreed to a proposal from the Outreach Commission to designate the 2010 Christmas offering to Doctors Without Borders, to be used for cholera relief in Haiti.
- Received and approved a slate of candidates for the Vestry class of 2014 as submitted by the Nominating Committee.
- Noted the need to plan for the Vestry Retreat to be held in April of 2011.



By the Grace of God
and at the invitation of
The Right Reverend Michael Bruce Curry
Bishop of North Carolina

You are cordially invited to attend
the installation of
The Reverend Clarke French
as the fifth Rector of
The Church of the Holy Family
on Wednesday, the 23rd of February, 2011
at seven o'clock in the evening

200 Hayes Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

February Meeting Schedule

- Augustine Project Board
Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m.—Library
- Christian Education Commission
Sunday, Feb. 13 at 5:00 p.m.—Commons
- Evangelism and Discipleship
Commission
No meeting in February
- Fellowship Commission
No meeting in February
- Finance Commission
Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m.—Conf. Rm.
- Liturgy Commission
Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7:00 p.m.—Conf. Rm.
- Outreach Commission
Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m.—Library
- Pastoral Care Commission
No meeting in February
- Properties Commission
Monday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m.—Library
- Youth Commission
No meeting in February

The Vestry CLASS OF 2011: Andrew Kinard • Martha Mundy • Sharon McConnell • Mary Rushing

CLASS OF 2012: Adam Grobin • Neil Newcomb • Phil Post • Tracey Powell

CLASS OF 2013: Tom Bainbridge • Anne Hager-Blunk • Kevin Reily • Rollie Tillman

Fourth Quarter financial review

Thank you all for the outstanding financial support you provided to Holy Family during the Fourth Quarter of 2010. As is typical for many parishes, Holy Family received a significant increase in pledge payments and other receipts during this period. In fact we received over 31% of our revenue in the last three months of the year and almost 12% in December alone. In our continuing effort to be more transparent with the parish's finances, the following chart shows the pledge payments, total receipts and operating expenses of the parish through December 31, 2010:

	December 31	Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
Pledge Payments	\$631,500	\$631,000	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$695,105	\$716,432	97.02%
Operating Expenses	\$697,307	\$716,432	97.33%

Although our expenses this year exceeded our revenues by \$2202, we were fortunate this year to have had some carryover from 2009 that covered this deficit.

Thank all of you for your support of Holy Family, its mission and its programs. Questions and requests for additional information on Holy Family's finances can be directed to Sefton Stevens, Finance Commission chair at 428-3554 and sefton.stevens@ustrust.com.

Christian Education for children (and parents)

Thank you to Debbie McCarthy, Heather Hille, and Sheryl Forbis who designed and organized very special **children's programming during this year's Annual Meeting** and to all the CHF Augustine tutors who helped during the Meeting! We learned more about the Augustine Project, created some teaching aids for Augustine tutors to use with their students, and played some of the learning games that Augustine students get to play. We collected books for students to read and ate alphabet-shaped cookies. Finally, we created a 'welcome' banner for Libby, Jack, Sally, and Clarke to hang on the wall in the Commons.

"**Conversations on parenting**" facilitated by Meredith Leight and Sheryl Forbis continue every month on the third Sunday. We'll meet in the Christian Education Commons during Sunday School (10:05). Whether you're new at this or experienced, come add your voice to the conversation!

- mark your calendars -

✓ We celebrate the beginning of the Lenten season with an **intergenerational workshop on Tuesday, March 8**. This workshop, held in conjunction with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, is an event for all ages with activities, projects, and materials to aid your Lenten journey (younger children are encouraged to come with their parents – adults may attend without a child).

✓ **Each Wednesday during Lent**, special programming will be offered for children – we'll learn more about how the season of Lent developed, ways in which we can observe the season, and meet special Christian friends who lived long ago.

✓ Finally – it's not too early – **Vacation Church School is June 19 – 23**. This parish-wide event involves the talents and gifts of many people; last year more than 180 parishioners participated, from helping to provide meals and snacks to telling stories to shepherding children!

Celebrating Marriage

Marriage is a sacrament of the Church. We believe, therefore, that the Church bears some responsibility in supporting married couples towards healthy and strong marriages. With that goal in mind, Church of the Holy Family's Evangelism and Discipleship Commission, along with the Triangle area's Marriage Encounter Spiral, invite married couples to the 4th annual St Valentine's Day dinner on **Saturday, February 12th**. Childcare included!

++ Those REGISTERING should fill out a pink reservation form and include a \$28 check to confirm that reservation. Pink Reservation Forms will be in the narthex, on the library table, and in the lobby in front of the offices downstairs. Checks should be made payable to Church of The Holy Family with "Valentine's Dinner" in the memo line, \$28/couple.

Checks and reservation forms must be turned in ****together**** to the church office.

The reservation includes menu selection, selection of seating time, and info on any children who might need dinner and childcare.

Reservations are **due by Sunday, February 6th**. Seating is limited, so make the commitment now to treat each other to a very special, intimate, elegant and affordable dinner. You won't recognize the Parish Hall and library transformed!

Questions can be directed to Kurt + Carol Uphoff at ktuphoff@juno.com, or 919-271-6606. The church office is NOT able to take reservations by phone.

Newcomers, be our guests!

Newcomers are invited to be our guests for supper on **Sunday, February 20**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Children are warmly welcome.

Established parishioners, please bring a covered dish and help us welcome those who are new (or who still feel new) to Holy Family. For information, contact Ann and Kevin Collins (932-1852 or anncollins@mindspring.com).

Save the date!

2-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 20

Silent Auction in the Parish Hall

... to raise money for Père Noe Bernier to build a permanent school building in Molas, Haiti. Be thinking about items and services you can offer for the auction. More details coming soon!

Contact Leslie Andersen (408-3456 or leslie.b.andersen@gsk.com)

Time for another Habitat build!

Holy Family is blessed to continue the Partnership started last spring with the local Episcopal and AME Churches – now joined by two Baptist Churches as well! We will be building a home for the Garcia Family in the same neighborhood (Phoenix Place) in Chapel Hill in conjunction with Orange County Habitat for Humanity.

Funding has already been taken care of; now it's time for volunteers! Our workdays are the following four Saturdays (morning or afternoon shift): **March 19, April 9, May 7, and June 4.**

No tools, nor special skills required. If you can't help on a work crew, we can use your lunch-making skills! More details to follow as we get closer to the start date. Please contact Bill Andersen (408-3456 banderse@cisco.com) for more information and to sign up!

Augustine Project News

▲ At its meeting in February, the **Augustine Project Board** reviewed the project's accomplishments in 2010, adopted goals for 2011, bid farewell to outgoing members Carl Fox, Thomas Stith, Jane Wettach and Linda Williford and welcomed new members Bob Armstrong, Betsy Booth, Ansilta de-Luca Westrate and Ginny Fogg. The Margaret Herrington Award for 2010 was presented to Jane Wettach and Ginny Widmark. This award recognizes outstanding Augustine volunteers who epitomize the gracious, giving spirit of our first board chair. Jane, a law professor at Duke and director of the Duke Children's Educational Law Clinic, served as the project's attorney for six years. Ginny has tutored multiple Augustine children every year since being trained in 2002 and represents the army of Augustine tutors who quietly and faithfully, week in and week out, are helping to change the world, one child at a time.

▲ In February, **the Augustine Project will be the featured program** for the Retired UNC Faculty's gathering at Carolina Meadows and will be presenting a breakout session at the Annual Conference of the NC Chapter of the International Dyslexia Association in Charlotte. If your school PTA, neighborhood or civic organization would like to hear more about the project, please get in touch with Debbie McCarthy at augustine@chfnc.net.

▲ **Replication news:** On Friday, March 25, Holy Family will host an Annual Meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Augustine Project directors from Chapel Hill/Durham, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Hickory, Fayetteville, Asheville, Greenville, S. Carolina, and Houston, Texas, as well as prospective directors from Sanford and Wilson. On Thursday, March 31, a replication workshop will be offered in the parish hall from 9:30 a.m. to noon to share information with those who may be interested in starting an Augustine chapter in another community. The project's replication policy can be found at www.augustineproject.org

▲ On Saturday morning, March 26, you are invited to join an enthusiastic group of Augustine Project walkers and runners at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park for **The Great Human Race**, a 5K sponsored by The Volunteer Center of Durham and involving more than 100 Triangle non-profits. Proceeds are split between the non-profit agency (85%) and the Volunteer Center (15%). The Augustine Project is blessed to be sharing in matching funds from two generous anonymous donors so this will be the project's most important fundraiser of the year. Please consider making a contribution. You may give online at www.active.com/donate/ghr2011/augpro2011 or you may write a check payable to the Volunteer Center with Augustine Project on the memo line. All donations must be in the church office by March 15, and every gift, large or small, is appreciated.

A Getting-to-Know-You Q&A with Our New Rector

Q: What do you prefer to be called?

A: I want you to call me whatever you find most comfortable. My preference would be for you to call me “Clarke,” as I will likely call each of you by your Christian names. But “Father Clarke” or “Father French” or just plain old “Rector” work too.

Q: How did you and Sally meet?

A: Sally and I met when we were undergraduates at Trinity College in Toronto. And no, it was not love at first sight, that came years later.

Q: Do you have siblings? Is your family still in Toronto?

A: I am an only child. Sally has one (slightly) younger brother who is a tax attorney. While my parents are both dead, Sally’s parents are both alive and well and currently live in Toronto.

Q: What is 5 year old Jack’s favorite thing right now?

A: Jack is a very busy boy. His current list includes dinosaurs, Lego, Buzz Lightyear, dragons and most things “Halloween.”

Q: What is nearly 1 year old Libby’s favorite thing right now?

A: Things she ought not to have: electrical outlets, precariously balanced heavy items, the dog.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: We have a two-year-old Scottish terrier named Maggie. If Maggie likes you, she likes you a lot. The reverse is also true, but less frequent.

Q: Is there anything in particular you’re looking forward to in living in North Carolina?

A: When Lisa Worster called to tell me of the search committee’s decision, we immediately went and bought some North Carolina guidebooks. I think we now have a list of things to do and places to explore that will easily fill most of 2011 and beyond. But we’d LOVE to have the inside scoop on things from you all.

Q: Do you think you will miss the New York and Canadian winters?

A: Well, there is nothing quite like the shock of -40 degrees—but I think I’ll manage without it. What I already do miss from my “Canadian” winters is the *aurora borealis*—that needs to be seen by everyone, at least once.

Travel Experiences

Q: Have you had a chance to use the German you studied in college?

A: What an interesting question. Aside from the odd translation request, not really. I hope, one day soon, to show off my beloved Niedersachsen and the North Sea to Sally and the children. I spent a very happy year there in high school.

Q: What’s the best trip/vacation you ever had?

A: Sally and I (largely at her urging) have had the good fortune to travel the world. But without a doubt, my favorite trip I have ever been on was a six-day trans-Atlantic crossing from New York to Southampton. While Sally enjoyed herself, I suspect she might answer differently.

Q: Would you rather vacation at the beach, in the mountains, or in the city?

A: Yes, I would like a vacation. It has been a while.

Food

Q: What three things are always in your refrigerator?

A: The three essential cooking condiments: a tube of tomato paste, Worcestershire Sauce and grainy French mustard. Chances are one of those three things can rescue whatever main course you've botched.

Q: Do you have a specialty that is your go-to recipe?

A: I'm surprised how many of my favorite dinner recipes begin with "In a dutch oven over moderate heat, sauté a chopped onion in butter, then add..."

Q: What is your comfort food?

A: Shepherd's pie.

Q: What is the strangest food you ever ate?

A: Roasted baby Egyptian pigeons (with heads and innards) proudly served by our friends in Cairo. I still shudder every time I remember Sally asking for seconds... Although, if we ever go back to that hole in the wall near the Place des Vosges in Paris, I WILL order the cervelles braisées (braised calf brains). Next time I will not chicken out.

Other Hobbies

Q: What are your other interests?

A: I collect stamps. My main interest are United States commemorative numbered plate blocks. If that means little or nothing to you, experience has shown me that there is very little I can do to change that. Sally groans whenever "stamps" come up. My more "accessible" hobbies include reading (historical fiction, mostly), the arts (with a preference for ballet and opera), and all kinds of things "outdoors."

Q: We're told you're a wonderful singer – are you a tenor, baritone, or bass?

A: Thank you. I am most comfortably a baritone, but can fake tenor or bass if needed.

Q: What are your favorite types of music to sing and to listen to?

A: I joke with my friends who are professional musicians that I "get" to sing as part of my job. But, the music I "sing" is mostly what needs to be sung in church. The music I listen to spans the whole range of medieval Christian to secular classic rock. My iTunes account tells me that I favor the top-40 list from when I was a teenager: Boston, Journey, Clapton etc. The Canadian in me requires a devotion to Rush, Bare Naked Ladies, Great Big Sea and the Tragically Hip.

Q: Do you play an instrument?

A: Not really, unless the kazoo counts.

Random Questions

Q: What is something that people would be surprised to learn about you?

A: I was once shot at by an irate farmer in the foothills of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. Loooooong story.

Q: What is your favorite sound?

A: Undoubtedly, the high-pitched shriek Libby lets out when I come home from work.

Q: What makes you laugh?

A: Well, to paraphrase Stephen Fry, I think you should be able to laugh at something and take it seriously at the same time. I try to laugh often and laugh best when with others.

Thanks to Nancy Pekar for dreaming up this e-interview, and to Clarke French for agreeing to be quizzed!